

**From:** Robin McCain  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/6/02 1:13pm  
**Subject:** Present Microsoft settlement terms - OPPOSE

I urge you to oppose the currently proposed terms of the settlement of the Microsoft anti-trust action for the following reasons:

Currently, it is possible to build a perfectly usable PC with Linux and freeware office products for very little money - Microsoft sees this as the biggest threat to their chances for a total monopoly. If Microsoft is allowed to give ANY software to public schools in lieu of a cash settlement, it will most likely result in Microsoft soon being able to COMPLETELY DOMINATE the software market and result in the demise of alternative operating systems and software.

Acceptance of the settlement as it is now proposed will go further towards the creation of a Microsoft monopoly than any other action their marketing department could possibly take, and totally negates the spirit of the anti-trust action.

So, I ask the U.S. Attorney's legal team to reject any settlement involving "software products", and to propose that the cash equivalent be given to the schools in the form of non-brand specific vouchers, which could also be used for alternative software (ie. not just for operating systems, office products, and the like, but the vouchers could also be used for learning software, consulting services, test preparation aids, and other software tools). This would allow the schools to be able to choose which brands of software they wanted to use and teach.

"Software products" cost Microsoft NOTHING... All the distribution of these Microsoft software products would do is to encourage children to BUY MORE Microsoft... ...and thus increase Microsoft market share.

If the schools had these non-brand specific vouchers, they could use them to endorse whichever software vendors they chose on an individual basis, which would encourage and benefit the entire software community,

not just Microsoft - and would be much closer to a truly fair remedy.

P.S. Why didn't the government seek injunctions to:

1. delay the release of any new Microsoft operating system involving the technologies in question until the case had been resolved?
2. deny Microsoft the ability to give away large numbers of free copies of their new development system tools in the academic environment. (This results in exactly the same problems the medical community has had for years with the free pharmaceutical samples from their manufacturers - an incentive for unfair advantage at the expense of the public)

The current situation has simply resulted in a "business as usual" continuation of the original anti-competitive behavior.

**CC:** attorney.general@po.state.ct.us@inetgw